

Testimonials

Children in kinship care may have emotional and behavioral issues resulting from separation and grief, multiple placements, difficulty connecting with caregivers, and trauma.

"K&FT helped change the way we parent."

"PPE was helpful, kind, thoughtful, gave information and resources."

"A lot is going on with Resource Family Approval and PPE Support is helpful during this overwhelming process."



*We frequently refer to the African proverb,
"It takes a village to raise a child."
We have modified this to,
"It takes a loving village to raise a child."
We invite you to join our village!*

Kids & Families Together

Serving Foster, Kinship and Adoptive Families

CLINICAL & ADMINISTRATION CENTER
864 E. Santa Clara Street • Ventura, CA 93001
Phone: 805.643.1446 • Fax: 805.653.8085

THERAPEUTIC VISITATION CENTER
4601 Telephone Rd., Suite 117 • Ventura, CA 93003
Phone: 805.643.1446 • Fax: 805.764.9480

TRAINING CENTER
1317 Del Norte Road • Camarillo, CA 93010
Phone: 805.643.1446 • Fax: 805.653-8085

connect@kidsandfamilies.org
kidsandfamilies.org

If you or a family have questions,
find out more about our services
by visiting our website at:
kidsandfamilies.org

Our Mission

Our mission is to strengthen relationships and provide safe, supportive help and education that keeps families emotionally connected to one another.

We offer a safe and supportive resource, education and counseling center. We are committed to respecting each individual and family who request our services and to providing the most comprehensive education and counseling to promote healthy families.

Rev. 9/18

Kinship



Kids & Families Together

- ♥ *Building Relationships*
- ♥ *Strengthening Families*
- ♥ *Enhancing Attachment*

kidsandfamilies.org

Kinship Care

Kids & Families Together is a not-for-profit organization that provides a safe, supportive resource, education, and counseling center where families and the community can meet and share information regarding foster, kinship, and adoptive care.



*"Our family was not alone.
We discovered that other
families were going through
the same thing."*

Challenges

The challenges of helping children in kinship care may leave some caregivers feeling frustrated and overwhelmed from: lack of emotional support, understanding the services for child in one's care, legal guardianship process, financial support, change in roles, and co-parenting.

Common Challenges for Kinship Caregivers

Hopes and Dreams: Caregiver grieves wishes and desires for the present and future - that the birth parent will resume parenting and, that life will go back to "normal," that the child will have a good life and not become involved in dangerous behavior.

Grief and Adjustment: Caregivers grieve over change in lifestyle and relationships. Adjustments to new life must be made.

Shifting Parental Roles and Responsibilities: Caregiver feels some responsibility for birth parents' current situation.

Embarrassment: Caregiver feels embarrassed about the reasons for and various aspects of their living situation.

Loyalty: Caregiver feels as if they have betrayed the birth parents.

Adjusting to Child-Rearing Demands: Caregiver must understand and adapt to new and different approaches to raising children.

Anger: Caregiver has intense, negative feelings of displeasure about the reasons for and various aspects of their current situation.

Planning for Illness and Death: Caregiver must think about who will care for child in the event of illness or death.

Sabotage: Caregiver must deal with their own feelings and actions or those of the birth parents or child that could undermine living situation, case plan, or relationships.

Our Programs

At Kids & Families Together, services are provided that address issues faced by many kinship care families. **Services include:**

Kinship Peer Partner & Educator Program (PPE)

Offering education and support services to new or existing relative caregivers including understanding the child welfare system and community resources.

Eligibility: Formal and informal families

Kinship Support and Resource Groups

Facilitated by a Peer Partner and Educator (PPE). Support groups are held monthly. Topics include:

- Guardianship and other placement options
- Challenging behaviors
- Navigating the child welfare system
- Special guest speakers

Eligibility: Open to the public

Pre-Service Training "21st Century Caregiving"

In partnership with Foster VC Kids, K&FT offers required training to learn about the resource family approval process and benefits of being a Resource Parent.

Eligibility: For relative or non-relative caregivers in Ventura County for Resource Family Approval

Additional Services

- **Food Pantry Referrals** - Formal and informal families may access local food pantries
- **Furniture and Hard Goods** - May be available through Ventura County Human Services Agency if funding is available